

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6707
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
MEDICAL SCHEME FOR EX-SERVICEMEN
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have started any medical scheme in April, 2003 for ex-servicemen and widows of the soldiers killed in action in Barmer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposed to start such medical scheme in other areas of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): The Government have introduced an Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) w.e.f. 1.4.2003 for providing comprehensive medicare to all ex-servicemen in receipt of pension, including disability pension, and family pensioners, as also dependents to include wife/husband, legitimate children including son with permanent disability and wholly dependent parents on becoming member of ECHS. The scheme will cater for medicare to the Ex-servicemen (ESM) by establishing 104 augmented armed forces clinics at different Military Stations and 123 new Armed Forces Polyclinics at different non-military stations. These polyclinics are configured into type A, B, C and D polyclinics based on concentration of ESM population and facilities desired thereto. The infrastructure, medical facilities and manpower to be provided at each type of polyclinic to be established has already been laid down. Barmer is one such area where augmented armed forces clinics, within the existing military stations, has been established.